



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

April 6, 2018

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **AB 1909** (Nazarian) – as Amended on February 27, 2018 – **SUPPORT**

Dear Chairwoman Gonzalez Fletcher:

The County of San Bernardino urges your support for AB 1909, which requires the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to translate information notices and resources for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) providers into the CDSS threshold languages: English, Spanish, Armenian, and Cantonese.

Current state law and regulations require CDSS to translate information notices and resources for IHSS recipients into the four most common languages spoken by IHSS recipients (known as the “CDSS threshold languages”). However, no such requirement exists for IHSS providers. The result is that an estimated 40 percent of IHSS providers (roughly 200,000 individuals) receive program instructions, timesheets, tax notices, forms, and other important materials in a language that they do not understand. To mitigate this disparity, some counties have developed their own translations of key provider materials, despite no requirement or funding to do so.

The development of the new IHSS electronic timesheet website by the state exemplifies the translation disparity between providers and consumers. The website was designed to make IHSS timesheets and payment easier for providers. However, because current law requires that the state translate materials for IHSS recipients but not providers, the only portions of the website translated into the threshold languages were those portions intended for the consumer. Other portions, aimed at provider use, are available only in English. With the timesheets only available electronically, counties cannot develop their own supplemental materials. Providers who do not speak English are at a disadvantage.

By ensuring that the same language translation rules that apply to IHSS recipients also apply to providers, AB 1909 will reduce duplicated workload, reduce errors due to confusion or lack of understanding, provide consistency across the state, and move IHSS toward equity for all IHSS providers.

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For these reasons, the County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 1909 and respectfully requests an "Aye" vote. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Lovingood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being more prominent than the last name "Lovingood".

Robert A. Lovingood
First District Supervisor
Chairman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

c: The Honorable Adrin Nazarian
Members and Consultants, Assembly Appropriations Committee
San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation